(d) whether the department is taking any action to promote the employees so affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Promotions in the National Book Trust are made on the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee in accordance with the Recruitment Rules and Procedure prescribed for the purpose.

[English]

Defence purchases from Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation

684. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a representation from Kerala Government for placing orders with the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation Limited to meet the requirement of Defence supply; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) On a representation having been received, the State Government was requested to advise the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation to contact MG ASC, Northern Command and to quote rates of cashew kernels for his consideration because this is not a centrally purchased item. MG ASC was instructed accordingly but inspite of sending tender sets on 28.1.1997 and 22.4.1997, no response from the Corporation has been received.

[Translation]

Collision of MIG Fighters

685. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of MIG fighters remain in India and the price of each MIG fighters;

(b) the total number of fighter planes of Indian Air Force met with accidents, got destroyed and the total financial loss suffered;

(c) the reasons for these accidents and whether our pilots are less trained than those of other countries pilots; and

(d) the average rate of air accidents in India in comparison to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) There are 9 variants of MIG fighters at present in the service of IAF. It is however, not considered desirable to disclose the number of the aircraft, from the security point of view. The price of various MIG variants varies from Rs. 8.34 crores to Rs. 89.33 crores at 1997-98 price level.

(b) Since April 1993, 58 fighter aircraft met with accidents and got destroyed. Total loss on account of loss of fighter aircraft during this period as per the provisional loss statement is Rs. 612 crores.

(c) The cause factors for these accidents are technical defects, human error and bird strike. The training of IAF pilots is not, in any way, inferior to that of pilots from other countries.

(d) comparison of the average rate of accidents with that of other countries is not possible as the list of the number of accidents of the other countries and number of hours flown by their aircraft are not available.

Bungling

686. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some teachers belonging to the minority community and management staff have been eating up the funds provided by the UGC for UPSC and BPSP coaching classes in Bihar and other States; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Reservation to SCs/STs

687. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not providing reservation to SCs/STs in teaching/faculty positions;

(b) the lowest grade of teaching post in which reservation is applicable; and

(c) the reasons for not implementing reservation policy for SCs/STs since 1974-75 in IITs?